



STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1964

Medical Officer of Health : NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector : F. HODSON, F.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

18th May, 1965.

To The Chairman and Members,
Sturminster Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1964.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Allowing for the smallness of the figures under consideration the vital statistics compare favourably with those for the country as a whole. With fifty-four less deaths than a year ago, one hundred and fourteen deaths gave a comparative death rate of 8.0 (the lowest recorded in the district) compared with that of 11.3 in England and Wales as a whole.

There was no serious increased incidence of notifiable disease.

I am indebted to Mr. Hodson for his co-operation and help during the year and for his assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk Miss J. Shirley for her efficient services during the year.

May I also acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. Harris, your Housing Manager, Miss Bradley and all the members of your staff.

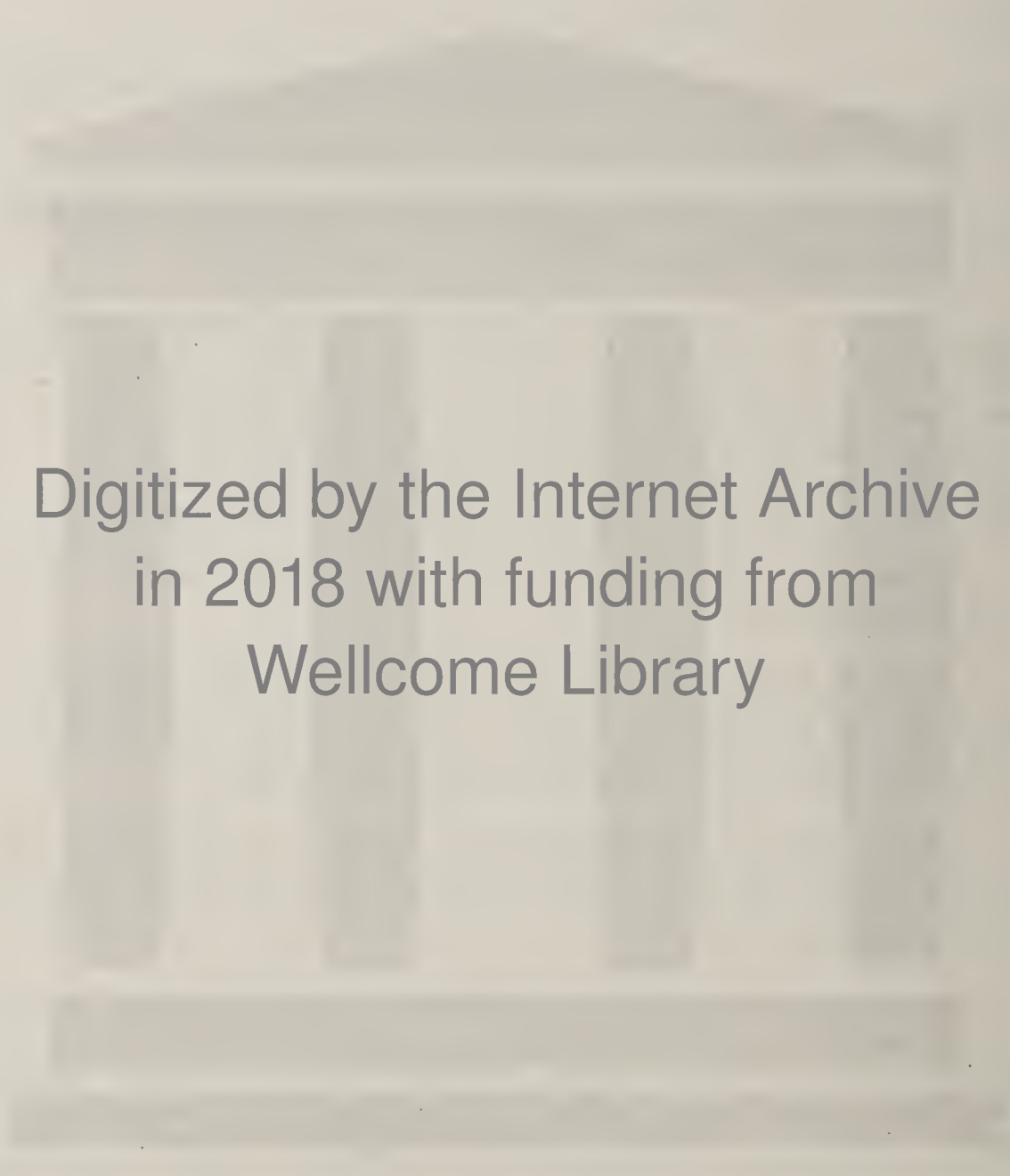
It always gives me pleasure to acknowledge, in my Annual Report, the courtesy and consideration which I have received from members of the Council during the year, but this year, being the twenty-fifth, during which I have had the privilege of serving your Council, I would like to extend my thanks to all who have made my association with the Council during this long time rewarding and pleasing.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

Boyle P. Brown

Medical Officer of Health



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STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 4

Area - 45,364 acres

Rateable value: 1st April 1965 - £217,816

Production of a penny rate: 1st April 1964/65 - £863(est)
1965/66 - £870(est)

Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 10,070

LIVE BIRTHS

			<u>Comparative Rates</u>	
			(a)Sturminster R.D.C.	(b)England & Wales
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
Total	65	69	Rate per 1,000	
Illegitimate	2	3	resident pop:	
			)= 13.3	
			17.0	18.4

STILLBIRTHS

Total	Nil	3	Rate per 1,000	
(Legitimate)			live & still-	
			births = 21.9	
			21.9	16.3

DEATHS

Total	58	56	Rate per 1,000	
			resident pop:	
			)= 11.3	
			8.0	11.3

Deaths in Infants

Under 1 year	Nil	3	Infantile death	
Under 1 week	Nil	3	rate per 1,000	
(Legitimate)			live births	
			)= 21.9	
			21.9	20.0

			<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>
Deaths from	Maternal Causes		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
"	" Tuberculosis		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
"	" Cancer of the Lungs		5	3	3	4
"	" Other Cancer		11	20	15	13
"	" Coronary Disease (Angina)		21	25	26	24
"	" Other heart or circulatory disease		48	59	72	61
"	" Pneumonia		9	9	15	9
"	" Motor vehicle accidents		1	Nil	1	1
"	" All other accidents		Nil	2	4	1
"	" Suicide		4	1	Nil	2
"	" Leukaemia & Aleukemia		1	Nil	Nil	1
"	" Influenza		Nil	Nil	1	9

B. Nature of the District

The district is essentially agricultural in character and many of the local industries are of this nature. The manufacture of animal feeding stuffs, cheese making, broiler chicken production and processing together with the slaughter of animals for 'export' meat.

Glove making, both in the factory and the home continues.

Endeavour, during the year to attract additional light industry into the area has led to the establishment of two depots for the supply of ready mixed concrete and a factory for the manufacture of caravans.

C. Health Services in the District which are not the responsibility of the District Council

Hospital coverage for the district is shared by the Yeatman Hospital at Sherborne, the Dorset County Hospital (both of the West Dorset Hospital Group) together with the Blandford Hospital and the Poole General Hospital (of the Bournemouth and East Dorset Hospital Group) of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board.

Laboratory Services

The Public Health Laboratory Service has once again proved co-operative, helpful and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Ophthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council

They comprise, the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, prophylactic inoculation, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind, handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

The assistance provided by the domestic home help service is of such incalculable benefit to the needy old people, that it is difficult to recall how these people managed before this service was instituted.

Voluntary Services

Acknowledgment must again be made to the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society, the Sturminster Voluntary Old People's Welfare Committee, the Sturminster Silver Thread Club and the Rotary Club.

During the year the Womens Voluntary Service started a meals-on-wheels service in the district. At the end of the year twelve persons in Marnhull, four in Shillingstone and two in Childe Okeford were benefitting from this service.

This is a most valuable service and it is hoped that time will see its expansion. Not only are the meals appreciated by the old people, but even more (one sometimes thinks) are the twice weekly visits by helpers who take the meals around.

D. Environmental Health Services

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is one half day per week.

Dr. G.B. Hopkins of the Blandford and Wimborne districts acts as his deputy during his absence, on a reciprocal basis.

Chief Public Health Inspector - F. Hodson, F.A.P.H.I.,
M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.

Assistant Public Health Inspector - L.G. Ringrow,
M.A.P.H.I. (Left July, 1964)

- A.C. Bould,
M.A.P.H.I. (Commenced 31.8.64)

Both Public Health Inspectors are engaged full time on sanitary duties and meat inspection. The Senior Inspector is also responsible for refuse collection and disposal and the administration of improvement grants.

Both officers are appointed inspectors under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.

Clerical Staff

For the first time in the history of this department, a full time secretary/typist has been appointed and this has gone a great way to assisting record keeping in the office.

WATER SUPPLY

The Poole and East Dorset Water Board have responsibility for the public water supplies in the district.

There has been close co-operation between the officers of the Board and your Public Health Officers. Copies of reports of water samples taken by the Board's officers are sent to my office and similarly, reports of samples taken by your officers are sent to the Board.

Quantity

Apart from temporary shortages at Stoke Wake, Belchalwell and Glanvilles Wootton, the quantity of the supplies have remained satisfactory.

Household Supplies

Only a handful of houses throughout the district lack a mains piped water supply into the house and with the exception of the small parishes of Woolland and Ibberton and six houses in Glanvilles Wootton the mains supply is from the Water Board's mains supply.

Quality

Weekly samples for bacteriological examination of all the Board's supplies at source were taken by the Board. Your officers took spot check samples of the mains supplies in the course of distribution.

The condition of the public supplies remained satisfactory.

Private Supplies

The parishes of Woolland and Stoke Wake are supplied by private supplies which have remained bacteriologically satisfactory. The small private supplies to six houses in the parish of Glanvilles Wootton have been of less satisfactory quality.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

All the major parishes have got adequate sewerage schemes and no serious nuisances in the district exist due to the lack of such schemes.

A small extension of the Kings Stag scheme and of the Sturminster Newton scheme to include the Broad Oak area were carried out during the year.

Surcharging of sewers with surface water has caused some trouble at Sturminster Newton and Marnhull.

Cesspool Emptying

The cesspool emptying service provided by the Council under section 76 of the Public Health Act, 1936 operated by contract, has continued to operate reasonably satisfactorily.

The one principal difficulty encountered is the satisfactory disposal of the contents of the cesspools, a considerable amount having to be disposed of in lagoons provided at the sewage works for the development of sewage sludge which, in itself, is a problem.

Public Health Nuisances

The disposal of agricultural wastes, without causing nuisance, is becoming increasingly difficult.

In, may I say, the good old days, apart from the farmyard manure heap which, in fact, caused little nuisance, animals spread their excreta in small quantities widespread over the land. No nuisance was created. Some liquid manure found its way into ditches and water courses but again no serious nuisance resulted.

At the present time with modern methods of under cover concentrated rearing of stock and quick turnover, the accumulated quantities of waste have to be disposed of in bulk and this, particularly in the case of pig slurry can only be done with great care, if no serious smell nuisance is to be created.

Here there is a new problem which will require much thought and when agricultural need has to be nicely balanced against personal rights.

The principal complainant is the retired town dweller, unused to the odours of the farmyard, who find such smells most obnoxious.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A fortnightly curbside collection (with a weekly trade refuse collection in Sturminster Newton) has continued during the year.

Our present tip now has a short life only, remaining. Efforts to secure an alternative tipping site have met with some success, though no final decision had been taken by the end of the year.

Salvage

The following amounts of salvage have been sold during the year:-

Paper	-	£17.
Other	-	£32.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

Trouble is still being experienced at Stourton Caundle by pollution of the brook arising from farm drainage and this was referred to the Rivers Board.

There were one or two other complaints of a similar nature which are still being investigated. Bearing in mind the stringent requirements which the Rivers Board seem to be applying, a great many problems are likely to arise in the future where farm drainage is concerned.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Nil figures not given)

	<u>No. of Premises on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	8
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	51	50
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	26	26
Total -	81	84
No. of cases in which defects were -		
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Sanitary Conveniences -		
Unsuitable or Defective	3	3
No. of outworkers - (Glove making) - 38.		

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This important public health measure came into operation during the year. Surprisingly, unlike other Acts designed to improve the environmental condition of persons or employees, e.g. the Public Health Acts or the Factory Acts, public health inspectors, as such, were not referred to in the Act, nor was any specific duty placed

on the medical officers of health. Nevertheless, under a medical officers general statutory duty to comment in this report on 'any other matters on which he may consider it desirable to report' I feel that it is not inappropriate to comment on the working of this Act in your district.

Your two public health inspectors were appointed as inspectors under this Act. By the end of the year the number of inspections carried out were nine.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No action was called for or taken during the year.

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT

No premises in the district are registered under the Act.

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no swimming baths in the district to which the public have access, but a number of private swimming pools are in use. Those at County Schools are supervised by the County Health Department.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

One public convenience is provided by your Council in the car park at Sturminster Newton. Hand washing facilities (cold water) is supplied but the provision of paper towels has had to be discontinued following mis-use.

Due to vandalism, it was found necessary during the year, to close the conveniences from dusk to dawn.

Properly placed and equipped public conveniences are a public health necessity but this objective cannot be achieved so long as they are subject to abuse by the general public.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

No action was called for or taken during the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

There are ten licensed caravan sites in the district. All these were for use by individual caravans.

There are no large caravan sites in the district licensed by the District Council.

Eight visits of inspection were made to the licensed sites.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year, the following infestations have been dealt with -

Fly Infestations	-	2
Ants	-	5

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee of which the Sturminster Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities, continued to carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The total number of inspections made under the Act in the district was four hundred and eleven and three hundred and forty-nine treatments were carried out, compared with five hundred and eighteen and four hundred and forty-three respectively during the previous year.

There have been reports from certain parts of the country that rats and mice have shown signs of immunity towards Warfarin, though no such immunity has been noticed in this particular area.

There are, at the moment, signs that the wild mink population may be increasing.

PERSISTENT PESTICIDES

During the year the Council expressed itself as being concerned at the increasing potential risk to the public health from the widespread use of persistent pesticides.

At the Annual Conference of the Rural District Councils Association, your representatives moved the following resolution which was accepted by the Conference -

"That this Conference is gravely concerned at the danger to public health and to the poisoning of the environment by the widespread and increasing use of persistent pesticides and urges Her Majesty's Government to introduce immediate legislation to prevent the use of such substances until proved to be harmless to all but specified pests"

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act within the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the district are subject to registration under the Act.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

There are no premises registered under this Act in the district.

Under the Act, with certain limited exceptions, any person who carries on a business of providing accommodation for other people's animals, even in a private house, must be registered under this Act, by the District Council.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

Regular inspections of school canteens have shown a constantly high standard of hygiene.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951 - Section 47

Once again, I am pleased to report that no statutory action was required to be taken during the year under these Acts for the compulsory removal of an old person requiring care and attention, to an Institution.

Persons of this category are not unknown. One, is, however, most reluctant to initiate action under this Act unless the welfare of other persons is seriously interfered with. It is rarely in the true interests of the person themselves, when compulsory removal is so often followed by early demise, which cannot be dissociated from the compulsory removal.

HOUSING

No. of houses in the district _____ 3,455

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year _____ 301

No. of inspections made _____ 423

No. of informal notices served _____ 9

No. of informal notices complied with _____ 8

No. of statutory notices served _____ Nil

No. of statutory notices complied with _____ Nil

No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958 _____ Nil

Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses -

Demolition Orders made _____ Nil

Undertakings accepted for -

Closure	<u>Nil</u>
Reconditioning	<u>Nil</u>
Other Action	<u>Nil</u>

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during
the year _____ Nil

Overcrowding

No case of statutory overcrowding was found during
the year.

Slum Clearance

There are few houses in the district which remain
'unfit' within the statutory definition of unfitness
and slum clearance therefore presents no problem.

New Housing

Thirty five new houses were built during the year by
private enterprise. Seven houses were built by the Council.

At the end of the year good progress had been made in
replacement of ten prefabricated dwellings at Stalbridge
with eighteen new two bedroomed bungalows, well designed
and equipped for use by older people.

Houses Let In Lodgings

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

No applications were received during the year for cert-
ificates of disrepair under the above-mentioned Act.

Improvement Grants

Seventeen applications were received during the year
in respect to standard and thirteen in respect to dis-
cretionary, grants, compared with twenty three and twenty
one respectively during the preceding year.

Rehousing

During the year fifty five families were rehoused
by the Council. At the end of the year there were eighty
six applicants on the waiting list.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

At this point I would like to pay tribute to the
speed and efficiency with which your Public Health Ins-
pectors, at the time of the Aberdeen typhoid epidemic,
carried out investigations at all catering establish-
ments and shops in the district to trace suspect tins of
corned beef. Not one of these tins was in your area.

1. Milk

Milk & Dairies(General)Regulations, 1959

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration by the District Council Nil

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration 3

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration 11

Samples

Twenty six samples of milk were taken and submitted for examination during the year.

No samples were submitted specifically for brucella investigation.

Not infrequently complaints are received with regard to the delivery of milk in dirty bottles, which have come from a bottling plant outside the district. As the law would appear to be at the present time it is doubtful as to whether a prosecution in such a case can be instituted by any Local Authority other than the one in whose area the bottling plant is situated. This is a handicap in taking proceedings.

Milk & Dairies(General)Regulations, 1959 - Regulations 19 - 20

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	6
Canteens - School and workplace	12
Confectioners	13
Meat and Fish	12
Grocers	34
Mixed Stores	40
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	4
Food factories	2
Stalls	5
Other	8

No. of food premises subject to registration under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice Cream	48
Sausages & Prepared Meats	11
Fish & Chips	2
Cooked Chicken	1

No. of such premises inspected during the year - All premises and mobile shops.

No. of inspections carried out 617

Food Inspection

During the year two hundred and sixty one samples of meat and meat products were taken, seventeen of which were found to be positive. Five of the positive samples were from carcasses detained at the slaughterhouses for further examination and which were subsequently condemned. Twelve unsatisfactory samples were of brine and pickled ox tongues or beef, subsequently condemned. Samples of ox tongues would seem to indicate the necessity for careful cleaning of the tongues before they are put into pickle.

Sixty nine samples of sausage and sausage meat were taken and forty seven of minced meat, all of which were negative.

Twenty five swabs were taken from equipment on butchers premises and only one of these showed evidence of contamination.

Of thirteen samples of meat taken from the knackers yard only one showed evidence of contamination.

Two samples of liquid egg were taken and these were satisfactory.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS(WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

There are three licensed premises in the district. Three inspections were carried out.

Meat Inspection

Inspection in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations of 1963 were carried out during the year, particulars of the results are given in the table overleaf.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

1964

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	477	1433	5199	1229	30
Number inspected	477	1433	5199	1229	30
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerchi</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	30	74	57	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	105	1086	557	594	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerchi	20.3	77.8	12.1	52.9	26.6
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	1	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	.06	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	12	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	11	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

In addition to the above animals, 27 goats were slaughtered and inspected, only one part carcase being contaminated.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS(INCLUDING HOUSING) CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections(under all headings)	<u>2,680</u>
Total No. of informal notices served	<u>19</u>
Total No. of informal notices complied with	<u>11</u>
Total No. of statutory notices served	<u>Nil</u>
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	<u>Nil</u>
No. of prosecutions	<u>Nil</u>

E. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than tuberculosis -

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>
Whooping Cough	3
Meningoccal Infection	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Measles	7
Erysipelas	3

Tuberculosis -

<u>New Cases Notified</u>	
<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
1	-

Food Poisoning

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON
Medical Officer of Health.

